



**Luna Community College  
Shared Governance Council**

**ByLaws**

**Article I: Name**

The “Shared Governance Council” shall be the official name of this committee.

**Article II: Purpose**

The purpose of the Shared Governance Council is to serve as a collective unit with equal representation from all college governance groups including the Faculty Senate, Staff Advisory Senate, Student Government, and Academic Leadership. The Council will review policy proposals, issues, concerns, and other institutional matters that are presented by these governance groups.

The Council also receives directives from the President and provides feedback prior to dissemination of information to the Senates and Academic Leadership. The Council is also required to prepare formal recommendations to the President to guide decision-making.

**Article III: Non-Discrimination Policy**

The Shared Governance Council adheres to the Nondiscrimination Policy set-forth by Luna Community College, which is an equal opportunity employer.

**Article IV: Membership**

The Shared Governance Council will include an equivalent number of representatives from faculty, staff, students, and academic leadership as members of the Council.

Each of the following governance groups will select two (2) representatives to serve on the Shared Governance Council:

- a. Faculty Senate
- b. Staff Advisory Senate
- c. Student Senate
- d. Academic Leadership

Note: Should any additional employee groups be defined, membership representation will be added to the council.

**Section 1. Term**

Members shall be elected to two-year terms and are eligible for election for up to two (2) consecutive terms.

**Section 2. Elections**

Each governance group will nominate two individuals to represent each available seat on the council.

**Section 3. Quorum**

A quorum will consist of a simple majority (51%) of the voting members. A quorum of the Council must be present to conduct business.

**Section 4. Meetings**

The Shared Governance Council will meet at least ten times per year and shall be held as determined by the Council and may not be suspended. Additional meetings will be scheduled as needed. Each academic year, the Chairperson will establish a regular meeting day and time in collaboration with those selected to serve by their respective governance groups.

- a. **Special meetings** of the Council may be held at any time if called by the institution's President, Council Chairperson or three (3) members of the Council. Written notice stating the place, date and time of any regular meeting of the Council shall be delivered personally, or electronically to each member of the Council within \_\_\_\_\_ of convening. Members of the Council may participate in a meeting by means of conference call or similar communications. Participation by electronic means shall constitute presence at such meetings.

**Section 5. Absentees, Resignation, Termination, Vacancies**

Members can be terminated from the Council due to excess absences. The council at its first annual meeting will determine the number of unexcused absences required for termination. Resignation from the Council must be in writing and received by the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson. A Council member may be removed for other reasons by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the remaining members. Vacancies occurring on the Council may be filled at any time by the appropriate governing group. The newly elected or appointed member(s) shall serve for the unexpired term of the vacant position, and may serve additional full terms subject to term limitations set forth by the Council By-Laws.

**Section 6. Proxy**

In the event that a Council member will be absent, that member must designate a proxy to participate and/or vote in Shared Governance Council on behalf of their represented governance group.

- a. The Council must be notified in writing of the proxy prior to any Shared Governance Council meeting.

**Article V: Officers**

The officers of this Council shall be the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Each officer shall be a voting member of the Council.

**Section 1. Term**

Officers will serve one (1) academic term per role.

**Section 2. Elections**

The Chair and Vice Chair will be elected from among the voting members for a one (1) year term with no more than two (2) consecutive one-year terms in the same office. The Vice Chair may elect to serve as Chair upon their concluding term of the current Chair, or may decline the appointment, resulting in the election of a new Chair from the remaining members. The Vice Chair may continue in that office if their term limit has not expired. If the Vice Chair's term limit has expired, a new Vice Chair shall be elected from among the remaining members.

### **Section 3. Officer Resignation, Removal, Vacancies**

Any officer may resign at any time by delivering a written resignation. In the case of the Chair's resignation, it shall be delivered to the Vice-Chair, and in the same manner, in the case of the Vice-Chair's resignation, it shall be delivered to the Chair. Any officer may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of the Council members. The Council members shall elect replacements for any and all vacancies.

### **Section 4. Duties & Responsibilities**

The Chair will facilitate the meetings, including agenda creation, collaborate with the Vice Chair to establish the agenda and prepare the Vice Chair to serve as Chair. The Vice Chair will fill the role of the Chair when the Chair is absent.

### **Section 5. Support Staff**

A recording office assistant will be provided by the College for Shared Governance Council meetings to produce and distribute meeting agendas and supporting documents, notate meeting minutes, and maintain records of Shared Governance Council files and accomplishments.

### **Article VI: Committees**

The Council may create committees as needed. These committees shall be limited in term and shall disband upon completion of their assigned task(s).

### **Article VII: Document Retention & Disposal**

The Council shall abide by the policies set forth by the institution's recordkeeping requirements with respect to preserving documents and proper disposal .

### **Article VIII: Operation of Shared Governance Council**

The Shared Governance Council is not a final decision-making body, but serves to facilitate information to all faculty, staff, and students and provide recommendations that serve the institution as a whole to the President and Board of Trustees.

**Commented [1]:** This needs work

**Commented [2]:** Maybe we can discuss this one further in our next meeting, unless you want to provide edits in the meantime.

### **Section 1. Recommendations**

Through a consensus process involving the various governance groups, the Shared Governance Council will make final recommendations to the President.

- a. If reaching consensus does not seem feasible, a vote will be taken.
- b. When a vote is required, those in the minority position may provide a written position statement that will be shared with the President and the Board of Trustees.
- c. In those instances where the President may plan to make decisions or propose recommendations to the Board of Trustees different from those proposed by the Shared Governance Council (whether they relate to policy or non-policy matters), the President will communicate in writing to the Shared Governance Council the reasons for such a different recommendation and will provide the Shared Governance Council the opportunity to respond in writing prior to the decision-making or taking the recommendation to the Board of Trustees for final action. This written communication from the President shall also be made available to the Board of Trustees.

**Section 2. Exceptional Circumstances**

In exceptional circumstances and with compelling legal, fiscal or organizational reasons, the President and Board of Trustees maintain the right to act on policy or other non-policy issues without utilizing the usual shared governance process. Whenever possible, however, a good faith effort will be made to achieve consensus with the Shared Governance Council on such issues, prior to action.

**Section 3. Good Faith Effort**

If individual governing groups feel that an issue brought forth has not been acted on in good faith and in a timely manner, only then will the Board of Trustees be approached to consider the matter.

- a. The process in such a case will be a formal presentation at a regular Board of Trustees meeting or work session rather than individual or group discussion with the Board or Board members in informal settings.
- b. A written request to be added to an agenda must be submitted to the Executive Office Manager at least one week prior to the date of a scheduled meeting.

**Section 4. Personnel Matters**

The Shared Governance Council should at no time be used as a venue for discussion of individual personnel matters. Such issues are of a confidential nature and should be handled according to the procedures set-forth in the employee handbooks.

**Article IX: Conflict of Interest**

In accordance with the Conflict of Interest policy set-forth by Luna Community College, the Shared Governance Council will avoid any situation that may give rise to a conflict of interest, including a financial conflict of interest. The Shared Governance Council members will be diligent to ensure that they avoid even the appearance or potential for a conflict of interest to arise.

**Commented [3]:** Does'n fit with the statement directly above.

**Commented [4]:** Ok...I went round and round with this one. I made a new section for it but I wasn't sure what to call it.

**Article X: Code of Ethics**

Shared Governance Council members must maintain ethical standards of personal and professional conduct that promote the highest level of public confidence and integrity in support of the advancement of Luna Community College.

**Commented [5]:** I can not find a Code of Ethics Policy anywhere within our Policies and Procedures. We have a Code of Conduct, but it is not the same. I stole some verbiage out of the Code of Ethics for Staff Senate for now.

**Article XI: Amendments to ByLaws**

The Shared Governance Council shall review the ByLaws annually. Notice of proposed amendment to the ByLaws shall be made available to each member at least \_\_\_\_\_ weeks prior to voting on the proposed amendment. The ByLaws shall be amended by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the voting members.

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